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DE RUEHUK 40017 3241105

ZNR 00000 22H ZYU

R 231045Z NOV 74

FM FBIS KADUNA

TO RUDDHKA/FBIS LONDON

RUDDMLA/FBIS CAVERSHAM/DW

RUTLAAA/FBIS WASHDC

RUEBEGA/VOA WASHDC

STAT RUVAADA/PTD/ [REDACTED]

STATIYWYY/DEFENSE [REDACTED]

RUEHUC/AMEMBASSY LAGOS

FRAT PORTUGAL PRESS SHANK N201045 20 NOV 74

BT
UNCLAS PW BHC LD (ATTN [REDACTED])

COPY TO FCS, LIAISON

PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY ORDERED TO CLOSE DOWN

N201045 LONDON REUTER IN ENGLISH 1028 GMT 20 NOV 74 N

((TEXT)) LISBON, NOV 19, REUTER -- THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TODAY ORDERED THE PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY LUSITANIA TO CLOSE DOWN IMMEDIATELY, ON THE GROUNDS THAT ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE COULD JEOPARDISE THE DECOLONISATION OF PORTUGAL'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

AN ORDER SIGNED BY MAJOR VITOR ALVES, THE MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESS, SAID THE CONCEPT OF COLONIALISM WHICH INSPIRED THE AGENCY'S FOUNDATION IN FORTYFOUR 1944 HAD BEEN DISPELLED FROM THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE.

AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

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ITS ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY, THE ORDER SAID.

LUSITANIA DISTRIBUTED NEWS IN PORTUGAL ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. IT WAS FOUNDED BY ORDER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER MARCELLO CAETANO, THEN MINISTER FOR THE COLONIES AND NOW LIVING IN EXILE AFTER BEING OUSTED IN LAST APRIL'S COUP.

WITH PORTUGAL SET ON DECOLONISING ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, THE CLOSURE OF LUSITANIA HAD BEEN GENERALLY EXPECTED IN RECENT WEEKS. ITS DIRECTOR, SENHOR LUIS LUIZ, LEFT FOR SPAIN AFTER THE APRIL COUP.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT NATIONALISED THE OTHER PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY, A.N.I. (NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY).

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